

Public housing has changed because we have changed. For many years now, the Union City Housing Authority has had a different vision of public housing; and today, that vision has touched countless lives, satisfying for many the age-old need for a real home—not just a shelter from the harsh elements.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me as I honor the Union City Housing Authority for its extraordinary success at providing affordable housing, establishing communities, and changing lives.

TRIBUTE TO MS. KATHRINE SMITH OF MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful woman in my district, Ms. Kathrine "Kate" Smith. Today Ms. Smith celebrates her 94th birthday. For almost a century, she has graced North Alabama with her dignified presence and has shared her talents and gifts with her community.

Ms. Smith's community service accomplishments would fill many a page, so it will suffice to say that she gives back to her community tenfold. Ms. Smith has been recognized for her service with many awards, plaques and certificates and thus it is fitting that the United States Congress join the many others in honoring her for her full and selfless life.

In addition to her outstanding community service, she is also a member of First Missionary Baptist Church, she sings in the church choir and is a member of the Missionary Society, OES (Eastern Star) and The Good Neighbor's Club.

I join Ms. Smith's friends and family who love her dearly in wishing her a happy and healthy 94th year. I thank her for her extraordinary contributions to our community and wish her a well-deserved happy birthday.

TRIBUTE TO CASTRO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ST. MARY'S COLLEGE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding public-private partnership in my district and all the participants who share a deep commitment for the education of our children. Castro Valley Unified School District and St. Mary's College of California have developed and implemented a partnership that has led to a comprehensive literacy development program at kindergarten through post-graduate collegiate levels.

I commend St. Mary's College of California for forming a public-private partnership with the Castro Valley Unified School District. This commitment to the betterment of children and education by extending professional learning experiences and teaching strategies has greatly increased the school district's ability to deliver a comprehensive literacy program. Be-

cause of their efforts, almost all Castro Valley Unified School District students completing third grade are at or above reading level, student achievement is up, literacy attainment is heightened, and teaching strategies are being redefined and better directed.

I take great pride in honoring the dedication and professional leadership that St. Mary's College has taken in establishing this partnership. The partnership has helped expand the role of the public school teacher to a researcher, writer, and facilitator and created a model for successful literacy teacher-training programs. I believe that this public-private partnership should serve as a model to school districts and colleges across the country in order to create higher standards of literacy and literacy education at kindergarten through post-graduate collegiate levels.

HONORING PATTY ARAGON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to celebrate the wonderful life of Patricia Aragon. Mrs. Aragon recently passed on after a courageous battle with cancer.

Patty was a beloved citizen of Pagosa Springs where she and her husband, Ross, raised their six children. And with Patty, it was always children—hers and others in her community—that came first. She served on the local school board for over a decade where she was proud to pass out diplomas at commencement ceremonies. Everyone who came in contact with Patty was instantly overtaken with her loving spirit. When she wasn't helping the school system, she could be found serving patron's of her restaurant. She and her husband owned Al's and Al's West restaurants where Patty was famous for her chilburgers and homemade tortillas.

Patty Aragon was an incredibly spirited person who loved to see others smile. Through her business and public service, she touched the lives of hundreds children and adults alike.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to this remarkable woman and great Coloradoan. She will be greatly missed, but not soon forgotten.

LEBARON TAYLOR—A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, next week the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation will host its 30th Annual Legislative Weekend. For the first time in the history of this event, we will be without our beloved friend, and former CBC Foundation Chairman and board member, H. LeBaron Taylor. LeBaron died from cardiac arrest on July 19th.

LeBaron was both Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs at Sony Music Entertainment and Vice President for Corporate Affairs at Sony Software Corporation. His responsibil-

ities ranged from government and public affairs issues to corporate responsibilities including equal opportunity employment and minority development and corporate philanthropy. LeBaron's impact on the entertainment industry, however, far exceed his formal titles or positions within the Sony corporate structure.

From his entry in the music industry as a broadcast engineer as well as an on-air personality and program director at WCHB in Detroit to a stint as station manager at WDAS in Philadelphia to his move into the record business with the creation of Revilot Records in 1967, LeBaron was a pioneer in the promotion of Black music. He would later move to Atlantic Records in New York City before joining CBS Records in 1974. Black Enterprise magazine noted that LeBaron "defined black music in the '70's."

LeBaron's unique relationships with artists led to his position with CBS Records as the head of their marketing department for Black music. Under his leadership, CBS Records' Black music Marketing department became the model for the entire industry. Three years later, he became the company's first vice president of Black Music Marketing, with the added responsibility of Jazz/Progressive Music Marketing. LeBaron was recognized by Ebony magazine as one of the "Top 50 Black American Executives in Corporate America" and, most recently, as one of the top Blacks in the entertainment industry.

Throughout his career, he received numerous awards for his public service activities and his pioneering efforts in Black music marketing. A two-time recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus Chair Award, LeBaron also received the Chairman's Humanitarian Award from TransAfrica Forum; the NAACP Corporate Image Award; and awards from the National Urban League; the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters; The Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Hall of Fame, the White House Conference on Small Business and The Business Policy Review Council among many others that are too numerous to mention. His civic activities included board membership with organizations such as the CBC Foundation, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Board of Governors and the Rhythm & Blues Foundation.

Characteristically, the accomplishment of which LeBaron was most proud was his recognition by the Black Employees Organization of CBS Inc. for mentoring and fostering the growth and development of minorities within the company.

A native of Detroit, LeBaron graduated from Wayne State University and recently was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama. He was also a board member of the Grand Boule Foundation of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and chaired its Social Action Committee. He is survived by his wife, Kay Loverlace Taylor, Ed.D. and four children: Eric and Tiffani from his first marriage and his stepchildren, Laura and Jason, from his second marriage. His first wife, Yvonne passed away in January of 1997.

The CBC Foundation's Annual Legislative Weekend will be forever changed by the absence of LeBaron Taylor not only because of his dedication to our Weekend's activities, but also because of his lasting contributions to the public service work of the Foundation, his friendship and support for CBC Members and his contributions to the Black music industry.